

Submitted on Thu, 02/10/2022 - 20:04

**Name**

Deb Charlea Baker

**Town/City**

Chester

**Topic**

Other

**Comment**

Dear Green Mountain Care Board,

I have had hearing loss my whole life. I wear bilateral hearing aids. One of my hearing aids is four years old, the other one is fifteen years old. I live in fear of the day I need to replace them. I understand that you are in the process of reviewing the Vermont Benchmark Plans. I urge you to include Hearing Aid coverage. The cost for Hearing Aids is well beyond the reach of many Vermonters, yet untreated hearing loss has proven dire adverse effects on physical and mental health, employment, education and general well being of those of us who need them and cannot afford them.

By including this coverage in the Benchmark Plans you will be helping Vermonters access the treatment they need to be healthier, improve quality of life and to more effectively function in their lives. Families and employers also benefit when someone gets hearing aids and is able to fully function and contribute to their communities. I urge the Green Mountain Care Board to include access to this vital treatment by covering hearing aids.

Thank you.

Deb Charlea Baker

**Your public comment will be shared with the Board. To promote transparency, the Board sometimes posts public comments on its website. Are you okay with the Board posting your comment? If no, your comment will be sent to the Board but not posted.**

Yes